Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, in Fairfax County, Virginia, has been awarded the highest honor in the parks and recreation field, the 2008 Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management by the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This is the fourth time the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded the Gold Medal (previously in 1981, 1991, and 2001). The department was also a finalist in the competition in 1990 and 2007.